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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 21, 2012

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The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C St NW Ste 7276
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Dear Secretary Clinton:

I was appalled to read the enclosed *BBC News* article which reported that Malawi's president Bingu wa Mutharika, recently told foreign donors to "go to hell." How can Malawi reasonably be considered a legitimate partner for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)?

I understand that the MCC Board is scheduled to meet this Thursday. I once again urge the board to immediately terminate its compact with Malawi. Since the suspension of Malawi's compact last July the situation has only deteriorated -- notably, in October 2011, Malawi rolled out the red carpet for Sudanese president Omar Bashir, an internationally indicted war criminal.

I recently returned from several days in the world's newest nation -- South Sudan. During the course of my trip, I spent time in Yida refugee camp where I interviewed refugees who had fled the violence in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan. Those that I spoke with shared harrowing stories of daily Antonov bombing raids that indiscriminately shell civilian populations. Time and again I was told that the victims of these attacks, the Nuban people, were being target because of the color of their skin. In speaking with the refugees in the camp, I heard echoes of Darfur -- accounts of ethnic cleansing, mass murder and rape of innocent civilians in the region.

The refugees pleaded with me to take one important message back to America: bring Bashir to justice. Warrants for Bashir's arrest were issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2009 and 2010. It is time for a concerted, serious effort by leaders around the globe, foremost among them the United States, to hold him accountable. Bashir has left a trail of death and destruction in his wake -- and, as my trip made clear, persists in his murderous aims even today.

I can't help but recall that countries around the world went to great lengths to detain and try those responsible for the genocide in Bosnia and Serbia in the 1990s, including Slobodan Milosevik, the former president of Serbia. Yet today, years after the issuance of an arrest warrant from the ICC, Bashir travels around Africa, to countries like Malawi, with virtual impunity. Unfortunately, it appears that ethnic violence in southern Europe is more concerning to the international community than ethnic violence in Africa.

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Upon my return from South Sudan, I issued a detailed "Trip Report" which included a series of policy recommendations. One of these recommendations is that no American tax dollars should be going to countries that welcome Bashir. Malawi is a prime example.

Enclosed is a copy of my complete trip report for your review.

I urge you to make an example of Malawi -- an example that reverberates throughout the rest of the world. America is no friend to governments that are friends to war criminals, and America doesn't give precious foreign aid to leaders who exhibit such blatant disregard for U.S. taxpayer assistance.

I want to be clear: If you fail to do this, it will mean that you are assisting a government that welcomes an indicted war criminal -- Bashir -- even though he is still engaged in atrocities in the Nuba Mountains. History will judge your actions.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jf

Please cancel this.

I rather /a



AFRICA

5 March 2012 Last updated at 06:44 ET

Malawi's President Mutharika tells donors 'go to hell'

Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika has told foreign donors to "go to hell", accusing them of plotting with local groups to topple his government.

Mr Mutharika said he was "tired of being insulted" and urged his followers to prevent any protests against him.

Civil society said there are no planned protests - and condemned the president for inciting his supporters.

The UK and other donors cut aid to Malawi in 2010, criticising its economic policies.

Last July, at least 19 people were shot dead by police during anti-government protests over the worsening economy.

'No more nonsense'

Mr Mutharika said he has intelligence reports that some Western donor nations were working with local non-governmental groups (NGOs) to hold street demonstrations and vigils against his rule.

"I will not accept this nonsense any more," Mr Mutharika said as he opened a road in his

home tea-growing district of Thyolo in southern Malawi.

"If donors say this is not democracy, to hell with you... yes, I'm using that word, tell them to go to hell," he said on Sunday.

He urged youth cadets of his ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to "do everything possible to rise up and make sure the demonstrations are thwarted".

Malawi's NGO umbrella group, the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOMA), says the president has the "wrong intelligence", and no demonstrations are being planned.

"The president should be tired of the problems on the ground, not his critics," CONGOMA chairperson Voice Mhone said in a statement.

"Unless he exerts all his energy and resources in finding solutions the criticism will not stop," he said.

The BBC's Raphael Tenthani in Blantyre says Mr Mutharika has had several run-ins with foreign donors - with the most high-profile row ending in the expulsion last year of the UK's high commissioner after a leaked diplomatic cable quoted him as describing the president as autocratic and intolerant.

He won a resounding second term in office in presidential elections in May 2009 - but has since faced criticism over his handling of the economy and his apparently growing intolerance of anyone who criticises him.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated 75% of the population living on less than \$1 (60p) a day.

The country has suffered shortages of fuel and foreign exchange since aid flows stopped two years ago.

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